

Wunambal Gaambera Healthy Country Plan Second Planning Workshop Garmbemirri 5 – 7 May 2009 Workshop Report

This report includes:

- a list of everyone who was at the workshop
- what the workshop was about
- a summary of what everyone said
- photos of the workshop
- outcomes of the workshop and what happens next



Who was at the workshop and what was it all about?

Traditional owners at the workshop were:

| | | |
|-------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|
| Janet Oobagooma | Sandra Mungulu | Margaret Mungulu |
| John Jangoot | Regina Karadada | Sebastain Djanghara |
| Jane Djanghara | Joseph Karadada | Keith Nenowatt |
| Albert Peumora | Mervyn Jangoot | Kevin Williams |
| John Goonack | Neil Waina | Raphael Karadada |
| Gregory Goonack | Desmond Williams | Jason Adams |
| Basil Djanghara | Sylvester Mangolomarra | Dorothy Djanghara |
| Louisa Milgin | Mark Unghango | Penny Bid |
| Rita Mangolomarra | Aileen Cheinmora | Rosemary Cheinmora |
| Richard Karadada | Brigette Ulgongo | Raphael Karadada Junior |

Other people at the workshop:

Bevan Stott (Wunambal Gaambera Aboriginal Corporation); Rob Warren (WGAC - Unguu Land and Sea Management); Tom Vigilante (Kimberley Land Council); Frank Weisenberger (KLC); Pam Jennings (KLC); Stuart Cowell (Bush Heritage Australia); Lyndall McLean (BHA); Heather Moorcroft (BHA)

There were several workshop sessions.

Day 1 - big group

- Checking the vision
- Checking the targets
- Describing the targets and why they are important

Days 2 & 3 - smaller working group

- Understanding the planning process
- Looking at one target - how healthy is it (viability), what are the problems (threats), and what can be done to fix the problems (strategies and actions)
- Looking at all other targets - how healthy are they and what are the problems (threats)



Day 1 - Checking the vision

Dorothy welcomed everyone to the workshop. Sylvester and Heather explained that the vision would be in the front of the plan and needed to be short but strong, so that whoever read the plan knew what Wunambal Gaambera people wanted for their Country and how it should be in ten years time. The workshop checked the vision and agreed it was good and that it can go in the plan.



Sylvester and Heather going through the vision.

It is our vision that:

- *we will look after our Country in the way of our Wanjina Wunggurr law and culture*
- *we will be living and making business on our Country*
- *we want our Country to give us and our future generations a healthy life*
- *our Elders will pass on cultural knowledge to next generations*
- *we will protect our cultural places and things and share with others as our cultural law says*
- *we will use our traditional Uungguu knowledge and western science to help us care for our Country*
- *we will have Ranger stations on-country to help us look after Country*
- *others will respect us as the proper owners and managers of Wunambal Gaambera Country*

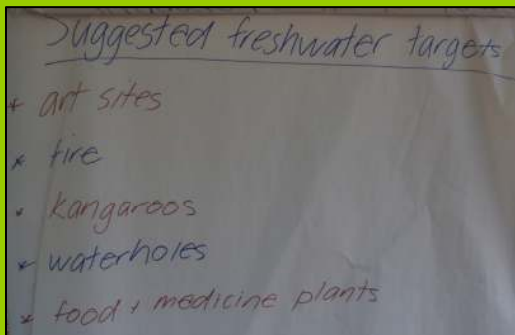
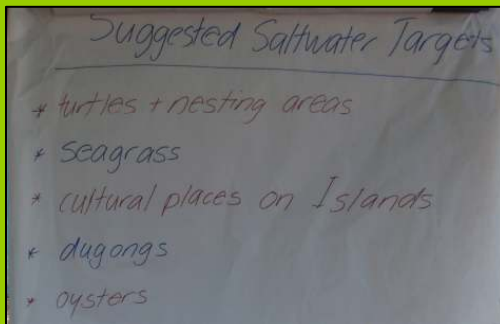


Basil said the vision was good.

Day 1 - Checking the targets - the really important things

Heather explained that targets are the things that the plan will focus on. By looking after these targets, all parts of Country, and Country itself, should be looked after properly. The steering group asked that the workshop check the targets to see if they were right. The group went through the list of targets made at the last workshop and made some changes.

Targets from the last workshop.



The revised targets.

Saltwater targets

- Turtles and dugongs
- Cultural places on islands
- Fish and seafoods

Freshwater targets

- Rock art
- Fire
- Kangaroos
- Waterholes
- Food and medicine plants
- Rainforests

Day 1 – Describing the targets and why they are important

The group talked about each target and said why it was important. The plan will have a description of each target that includes the things that traditional owners said at the workshop. Basil said “*When all those things put into that book that will make country strong.*”

- Rock art**
- repainting
 - keep it fresh
 - fading
 - rain/wind/animals
 - humans
 - all important
 - rock painting
 - inside caves
 - burial sites
 - know language to visit, talk language
 - smoking ceremony to visit
 - tourists need to be introduced

- Fire**
- fire right time to maintain land
 - wrong time no good for animals
 - small animals can't escape
 - helps fruit/new growth for animals
 - golf ball burning
 - old way walking is respectful way
 - tourists campfire

- Food and medicine**
- quinine, emu tucker
 - bush anaesthetic tooth ache
 - vine in rock, stem no leaf, naked lady - break for sap
 - yam
 - big supermarket
 - white gum (season meat)
 - animals spread seeds for new trees
 - use fire to clean where no food
 - hot fire fixes country

- Kangaroos**
- all kangaroos
 - names for each & where they live
 - red kangaroo in plains
 - fire for hunting

- Fish and seafoods**
- crab, periwinkle (ngarrwar), cone shell (good for cold sick), oysters, clams, mangrove worms
 - arndawan, trawler nets
 - barramundi (has song in it)
 - special fish have men's songs in them
 - reef is important
 - hammerhead shark
 - stone fish (don't kill him) - mangrove stops pain

- Rainforests**
- Wullorr
 - yams grow (digging)
 - in hills
 - thick forest
 - green patch in hills
 - medicine
 - scrubfowl
 - fire goes through & burns everything
 - feral animals hoof up ground
 - no pigs? (Sir Graham Moore Island)
 - Cape Bougainville
 - wild grapes
 - rough-scaled python in one rainforest

- Waterholes**
- river, creek, spring, billabong
 - bullock/horse hooves it no good
 - Wunggurr areas (more important)
 - animals drink
 - don't swim cos kills water
 - lilies
 - tourists litter
 - need to introduce yourself to Wunggurr
 - waterholes, talk to it

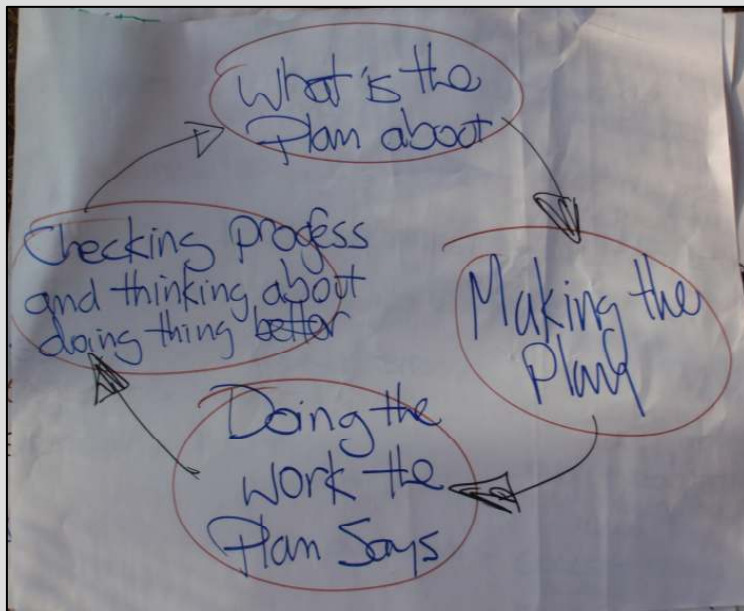
- Cultural places on islands**
- burial sites
 - lalai
 - paintings
 - footprints from Dreamtime
 - trawlers nets/buoys
 - burial sites damaged
 - Louis helped fix damage
 - tourists not respect
 - no opportunity for young people to visit

- Turtles and dugongs**
- seagrass
 - food
 - eat all kinds
 - Hawksbill - don't eat - Janet's mob does
 - old people know how to stop poison
 - good hunting everywhere
 - turtle eggs
 - if thirsty drink raw eggs
 - goanna helps you find eggs
 - certain people can hunt turtle

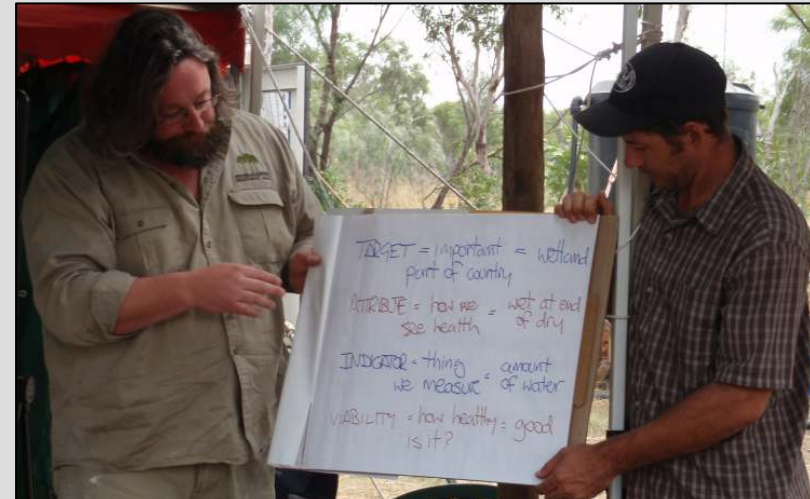


Day 2 - Understanding the planning process

Stuart explained the CAP (Conservation Action Planning) process that is being used for the plan. He and Frank then used some examples to show how it works.



The planning process



Stuart (with Tom helping) using an example to show how the planning process works

Explanation of how the health of a target is rated.



Janet, Margaret, Heather and Rob listening about the planning process



Frank using an example of toyota to show how the process works

Day 2 - Looking at one target - kangaroos

Stuart explained that the group would look at one target first - to get the idea of how the process works. The group discussed the target of kangaroos - what species are important, how to know if they are healthy and doing well, what the threats (problems) are and how to look after them (strategies and actions). These things go in the plan.

The group agreed that all species of kangaroo are important.

The attributes, or how we know they are healthy, are when:

- the Country is burnt at the right time
- traditional knowledge is passed on
- the population is good
- they are good to eat - when their tails are fat.

Some of the problems, or threats, are:

- government control over burning
- gardiya fires - tourists and stations
- kids not being interested
- no opportunities to be on Country
- feral animals
- weeds
- parasites/worms/ticks
- gun laws

Desmond, Sylvester, Gregory, Mark and Raphael thinking about what the problems are.



Janet and Margaret, with Mark, Raphael, Raphael Junior and Jason, during the discussion on kangaroos.



Some ways (strategies and actions) to fix the problems (threats) or make kangaroos more healthy are:

- traditional owners/rangers controlling burning
- fire breaks around some places
- access to country
- permits for fires
- rules for tourist fires and signs/information
- talking with station mob and working together on burning
- bush excursions
- school activities to learn about traditional ways
- using language more
- feral animal control
- weed work
- monitoring with AQIS
- monitoring numbers of kangaroos

Day 3 - Looking at the other targets

The workshop broke into two groups - men and women - to discuss the other targets and look at their attributes (important factors for the target to survive), the health (viability) and the threats (problems). At the end of these talks, everyone came back into the one group. Each group presented their work and the whole group considered whether it was right or needed more things added.

Food and medicine plants

FOOD + MEDICINE PLANTS
WET SEASON AND DRY SEASON }+
RAINFORESTS TOOLS + WEAPONS
IN ROCKS AND WOODLAND
WILD HONEY (ANTHILL, PAPERBARK, MANGROVES)
YAMS IN RAINFOREST + RIVERBED, ISLANDS.
HEALTHY
SUGAR BAG HEALTHY WHEN TREES FLOWER
COTTON WOOL TREE BLOOMING - RED KANGAROO FAT (KAROK)
GOOD RAIN MAKES EVERYTHING FAT
KANGAROOS, EMUS, TURKEYS TO SPREAD SEEDS.
GUBINGE, ?
CANT PUT ON MAP BECAUSE EVERYWHERE
THREAT
NO VEHICLE or BOAT
KNOWLEDGE GETTING LOST
CLIMATE CHANGE (RAINFALL)
FERAL ANIMALS - EAT/HOOVES
FIRE AT WRONG TIME

Margaret, Janet and Sandra - talking about food and medicine plants



Checking what has been said.

Record of discussion on food and medicine plants - health and threats

Day 3 - Other targets continued

Turtles and dugongs

TARGET: TURTLE AND DUGONGS
 ATTRIBUTE: FAT ON SHOULDER TURTLE (CONDITION) ✓
 SPEED = HEALTH TURTLE (CONDITION) ✓
 SEASONAL = EARLY DRY SEASON SOUTH-EASTERLY WINDS (CULTURAL) ✓
 DUGONGS PLENTY/OL (SIZE) ✓
 TURTLE IN ALL PLACES ON MAP (PURPLE PREFER CLEANER WATER)
 DUGONGS - WHOLE FAMILY MEANS HEALTHY (SIZE) ✓
 SEAGRASS HEALTHY (LANDSCAPE) ✓
 HEALTHY WHEN GRASS COMES TO SURFACE ON LOW-TIDE (DUGONG MIGRATE FOOD) (PATCH TO PATCH)
 TURTLE FEED ON SEAGRASS, JELLY FISH, MANGROVES, CORAL REEF!
 DON'T KNOW STORIES FROM OLD PEOPLE CULTURAL KNOWLEDGE GOOD??
 EAT ONLY GREEN TURTLE (CULTURAL) →
 ACCESS (ONLY ROB'S BOAT) (STRATEGY = MONITORING & HUNTING) 1-TRACKER NEEDS TO BE ADAPTED
 HAWKBILL ARE TERRITORIAL LEATHERBACK AROUND THREE-RIVER

THREATS:
 DRAGON + FISH TRAWLER
 GHOST NETS MAINLY ON ISLANDS
 MARINE DEBRIS LITTER (BOTTLES) RUBBISH BAGS
 CROCODILES
 ? CLIMATE CHANGE?
 NESTING PLACES FOR TURTLE DESTROYED → CYCLONES, SANDSTORMS WEEDS (ALGAE) STOPS NESTING, ONE PLANT ON ISLAND VIABILITY OF EGGS



Map showing areas for turtles, dugongs and seagrass.



Louisa, Dorothy and Pam



Rock art

ROCK ART - OCHRE FROM RIVER USED
 CAVES IN STONE COUNTRY
 SOME EASY ACCESS SOME HARD
 SOME BURIAL SITES
 SOME SACRED / CERTAIN PEOPLE CAN SEE
 - WANDJINA, ANIMALS, FISH, BIRDS, GWION PEOPLE.
 HEALTHY
 GOT TO VISIT RANGERS / UNDISTURBED (BONES etc)
 THREAT
 CATTLE RUBBING
 TOURISTS - GRAFFITI, DISTURB BURIAL SITE
 - LOOK AT WRONG WAY (NEED TO VISIT WITH CUSTODIAN/RANGER) (SOME PLACES NO GO)
 FIRE, WATER
 CANT VISIT - NO VEHICLE
 CANT CLEAN UP WASPNEST, TREES, REPAINT
 NATIVE TITLE
 DVST
 POACHES STEALING



Day 3 - Other targets ... continued

Fish and seafood

ATTRIBUTE: FISH & SEAFOOD TARGET

ATTRIBUTE: FISH STOCKS ARE REALLY GOOD; WHEN WE GO OUT FISHING WE CATCH ALL THE TIME; WE EAT ALL FISH SIZE

THREATS: TOURISTS (OYSTERS) ACCESS (OYSTERS) TRAWLERS OVERFISH WHEN IN BAY → NO FISHING FROM BEACH (12 MONTH RECOVERY) COME AGAIN IN RAINY SEASON NO FISH AT BOTTOM DEPT

TOURIST BOAT CAN POLLUTE WHEN THEY SPILL (ACCIDENT) SURGE-WATER, MUSSELS + BARNACLE COME IN WITH WAVES SEA-SLUGS ON INTERIOR

CLIMATE CHANGE CORAL BLEACHING CYCLONES

BARRAMUNDI SNAPPER, ROCK-COD
ANCIENT PAINTING OF FISH (POSSIBLY)
FISH ABUNDANT ON COAST & LANDSCAPE
KANDIYAK
NOT MANY UNDER-SIZED FISH (CONDITION)
CULTURAL FISH → VERY IMPORTANT NEED TO BE LOOKED AFTER, FREE FISHING
OYSTERS AT SOME PLACE DEREGATED AREA WITH HIGH VISITATION → MEDICINE OR FLU LANDSCAPE
NO ONE TELLS TOURIST HOW MANY TO GET
CRABS VERY SMART & QUICK CRABS SAY WHEN WOOLY BUTT TREE REMOVED SHARK/SWIMMING FAT WHEN MARCH FLIES COME
PEOPLE GO GRABPING ON MARCH AT HIGH TIDE IN APRIL (MAY)
YOUNG PEOPLE KNOW NAMES TALK TO WHITE COASTED CULTURAL → SEA-EAGLE ALIVE
SHELLFISH AT SHORELINE, MARSHLAND MEDICINE & BAIT

Rainforests

RAINFORESTS

WULLORR
VINES, THICK TREES
EDGE OF HILLS, ISLANDS
NESTING PLACE SCURRY FOWL
YAMS, PUMPKIN, FOOD PLANTS
PROTECTED FROM FIRE
NOT WINDY PLACE
SOMETIMES SPRING WATER
HEALTHY

YAMS + FRUITS
ROCK WALLADIES
NOT DISTURBED (TOO THICK FOR COWS)
LOT OF ANIMALS
KIDS VISIT WITH ADULTS

THREATS

ACCESS
FIRE - BAD IF HOT AND WHEN THICK GRASS AROUND IT.
FERALS MAYBE IF WATER CANE TOAD (WATERHOLES TOO)

IMPORTANT FOR

- PEROUPIRE
- ROCK WALLABY
- PYTHONS
- SCURRY FOWL
- ROCK PIGEONS
- TS PIGEON
- FLYING FOX
- MOUSE
- LIZARD (MUNGULARRI)

COASTS



Frank presenting the men's group ideas.



The group checking to make sure everything is included.

Day 3 - Other targets continued

Fire

FIRE (Women) (MANAGING FIRE)

THREAT TO ALL SPECIES IF NOT MANAGED

CAMPFIRE - CALM / ARMY DO BURNING AROUND
 BUSHFIRE - KIM BOLTON / COVE BAY

LIGHTNING

HUNTING + CLEAR ROAD FOR WALKING
 CLEAR AREA FOR LIVING FIND YAMS VINES

HEALTHY - LOTS OF SMALL FIRES

- MANAGED FIRE AFTER ~~RAIN~~ RAIN (KNOWLEDGE DOWN)

- RIGHT SEASON - JUNE JULY, BEFORE RAIN WINTER

- RIGHT PEOPLE

- CERTAIN COUNTRY CERTAIN TIME

- HOUSES + CAMP BURNT AROUND. - PLANTS
 - ON COUNTRY - POWERING / FOCUS AT RIGHT TIME

THREAT

- BURNING AT WRONG TIME - FEAR OF LOSING OTHER LAND

- CAMPFIRES NOT PUT OUT

- ACCIDENTAL FIRES. - PASTORS

- FINES → GOVT. RULES

- ACCESS. - LACK OF

- HOT WEATHER. - WILLI WILLI

- LOSS OF KNOWLEDGE + INTEREST

TARGET: FIRE

Attribute: Fire is MEDICINE FOR TO'S & COUNTRY CULTURAL
 (CAMPFIRE FOR PEOPLE (ACHES))

THREATS

- FIRE AROUND AIRSTRIP

- ACCESS / VEHICLES

- RESTRICTIONS / PERMITS

(Strategies from e.g. Kangaroo Target → Communicate with Pastors)

Fire is IMPORTANT → DO WE WANT TO SHOW IMPORTANCE IN SO FAR WE MAKE IT A TARGET???

FIRE FOR HUNTING (GAP FOR KANGAROO TO HUNT EASIER)

FIRE FOR BUSHHONEY

FIRE FOR CAMPING PLACES

CAN COMBINE HUNTING & LOOKING AFTER COUNTRY

READ THE SMOKE → WHAT IS BURNING & WHO IS BURNING

LAILAI STORY ABOUT FIRE (RED WINGED PARROT)

SPARKLING FIRES → SIGNS FOR SKIN CONDITION

EARLY BURN, HOT BURN, LATE BURN

* FIRE WEES COUNTRY, VALS NANGARI PLANTS, RAIN CLADS DEVELOPE.

FIRE IN DIFFERENT COUNTRY (SPINNEY, ROCKY COUNTRY)

BIG WILDFIRES (FROM TOBAC CAMP) BAD

SMALLER FIRES BETTER EIER

SINGS OUT OR WILD TO STOP FIRE

WHEN FLAME DANCES MAD → BAD FIRE

Both the men's and women's groups worked on fire.



The outcomes of the workshop

Lots of things were achieved at the workshop:

- The Vision was checked and agreed on.
- The targets were checked and fixed up.
- The attributes, health and threats of the targets were discussed.
- The strategies and actions for one target were recorded.

Although all these things have been done, the next workshop will check the targets again - to make sure there isn't something missing or not quite right.

What happens next?

1. Writing of the plan starts with all the information gathered so far from the workshops.
2. Another workshop is held soon to check if the targets cover everything, and to make strategies and actions for the rest of the targets and think about the objectives.
3. The steering group meet after the next workshop to make sure everything is on track.
4. A draft plan is ready for traditional owners to check by end of July 2009.

